

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A suspension system having an axle, at least a portion of which is made of  
5 a composite material. In a described embodiment, a suspension system includes  
an axle assembly which has a composite axle portion. Metal spindles are  
attached at each end of the axle for mounting wheels thereto. Two beams may be  
attached directly to the composite axle portion, to a sleeve overlying the  
composite axle portion, or to an axle seat attached to the sleeve or directly to the  
10 composite axle portion.